

Please add claims 14-20 as follows:

Sub B3) 14. An elevator system comprising:
an elevator assembly disposed within a hoistway;
a pair of load bearing structures affixed within the hoistway and from which the elevator assembly is suspended by elevator ropes; and
a compression member positioned between said load bearing structures in such a manner so as to counter non-vertical components of forces applied to said load bearing structures due to suspension of the elevator assembly.

15. The elevator system according to claim 14, wherein
the load bearing structures comprise mounting brackets attached to walls of the hoistway.

16. The elevator system according to claim 15, wherein
said mounting brackets are positioned on opposite walls of hoistway.

Sub B4) 17. An elevator system comprising:
an elevator assembly disposed within a hoistway;
a pair of load bearing structures affixed within the hoistway and from which the elevator assembly is suspended; and
a compression member positioned between said load bearing structures in such a manner so as to counter non-vertical components of forces applied to said load bearing structures due to suspension of the elevator assembly.

18. The elevator system according to claim 17, wherein
the load bearing structures comprise mounting brackets for attaching said elevator assembly to walls of the hoistway.